

From: lpb@apocalypse.org@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 6:19pm
Subject: Comment on the Microsoft Settlement

Dear Justice people:

I started working with microcomputers in 1985. Back then home and business users had choices of several different kinds of computers. There were Ataris, Commodore 64's, Apples and Apple Macintoshes, and IBM compatible computers, to name a few. There were several different hardware and software platforms. Things weren't compatible with other things, but people shopping for computers had several good choices that provided different features and different price points.

You'll notice today that people have only a few choices when they want a computer. If you go to the store, you can buy a PC running Microsoft Windows, or a Macintosh. The Mac software shelf is much smaller than the PC shelf.

And you know what? If you buy a PC, you take it home and instantly get attacked by viruses and identity thieves. Then you have to pay Microsoft even more money for an 'upgrade' that fixes some bug that makes it impossible to get any work done.

You'd think in the last fifteen years that computers would have gotten easier to use, but they haven't. Microsoft keeps saying that their stuff is winning because of better quality, not because they are a monopoly. I don't believe it for a second. I've been here a bit, and computers were easier to use in '85 before Microsoft owned everything.

Lauren P. Burka
305 Walden Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 876-3574